



CENTRAL ESTUARY PLAN

A Vision for Oakland's Waterfront

Summary Community Workshop #3 Fruitvale San Antonio Senior Center Thursday, June 18, 2009 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Workshop Format and Process

The City of Oakland is preparing a Specific Plan that will help define and determine a common vision for the Oakland Central Estuary. The plan will provide a framework to support the development and enhancement of the area and to balance land-use goals with the environmental, economic, health, and quality-of-life interests of the community. The City is conducting a series of eight community workshops to encourage public input throughout the plan's development.

The third community workshop was held on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at the Fruitvale-San Antonio Senior Center and was attended by over 40 members of the community – representing a cross section of stakeholders, including residential, commercial, industrial and recreational interests. The meeting was an open house with project staff available to answer questions and to record comments from the community. The goal was to share and discuss information gathered on the existing conditions of the Plan Area and to identify existing opportunities and constraints that will factor into the development of draft alternatives for the Central Estuary Plan.

Meeting attendees were free to visit a series of eight exhibit stations, covering the following topics: process & vision; existing land use; transportation; environment; sustainability; demographics & economics; public health; and follow-up (including opportunities to comment and next steps).

Project staff was on site to answer questions and collect comments in their area of expertise. There was also an ongoing PowerPoint presentation on display, which provided background information on the Central Estuary Plan.

Draft Existing Conditions Stations Highlights

The following is a summary of comments and responses about draft existing conditions, broken out by exhibit station. Some comments may have been reworded in order to clarify meaning; comments do not necessarily appear in the sequence that they were made. This summary is not meant to serve as a transcript.

Station 1: Process and Vision

In response to the issues/themes expressed in the Vision Statement, community members offered these key concerns:

- Bay Trail
 - Needs lighting – Oakland Museum Women’s Building
 - Concerns regarding safety, crime at night
 - Dumping (on the Bay Trail)
 - Security gates may not always be locked
- Estuary Arts Group
 - Working to connect Alameda and Oakland side of Estuary through open studios
- Waterfront Park (MLK Shoreline)
 - Is litter-strewn and polluted
 - Needs better bike and pedestrian connections and transit

Station 2: Existing Land Use

Community members commented that the primary uses, such as “light-industrial,” were loosely defined. Meeting attendees would like to see more specific uses defined. They would also like to see different categories of mixed use, and to update the data to reflect the recent boom in residential growth. Several property owners helpfully identified live-work uses, which were not identified as such in the City’s parcel data.

- Parcel-Level Data
 - Does not show enough detail
 - Mixed-use projects are overlooked
- Is there a better way to represent the diversity of uses?
 - Where does mixed industrial/manufacturing/warehouse fit in?
 - Live-work (studio-residential)?
 - Plot at Tidewater business park should be an industrial lot (leased for container storage)
 - Mixed commercial residential/retail?
 - There is more mixed-uses/live-work than shown specifically in the Kennedy Tract Area – US 880, Kennedy, and 29th Avenue
 - Measure DD coordination with Oakland, Bay Trail connections

Station 3: Transportation

Participants commented that there should be more sound walls and noise mitigation, and that they would like the Bay Trail to be safer. They would also like to see more connectivity of North to South transit concentrated around International Boulevard and the Embarcadero. They also commented that traffic is now using the new interchange at 29th Avenue and cutting through Fruitvale.

- Security/lighting on Bay Trail
- Glascock Spur Train operations/delivery schedule
- I-880 noise mitigation – sound walls on west side (Southbound lanes) or surface coating on I-880
- Cut through traffic with new 29th Avenue ramps (traffic from 29th to Fruitvale)
- Short freeway weave at the 29th Avenue and Fruitvale on/off ramps (Southbound I-880)
- Enforcement of bike lanes on Alameda Avenue
- Parking enforcement
- High Street and Fruitvale Avenue congestion

Station 4: Environment

Community members commented that the information contained in the map was difficult to interpret. They asked specific questions related to the map that was on display. They also asked about noise quality and air quality issues, especially pertaining to the Owens Brockway property.

- Air Quality Monitoring – be sure to monitor at night, for 24 hours
- Noise Monitoring – study humidity/fog interplays with noise levels in the area
- Noise Mitigation – consider more sound walls around I -880
- Dam Inundation area data – what is the data source? (Answer: a 1995 map of dam inundation areas prepared by ABAG, the Association of Bay Area Governments)
- Historic Resources – add Quinn’s Lighthouse
- Northern Areas – consider green living/green manufacturing area

Station 5: Sustainability

Meeting participants expressed concern about the impacts of climate change and wanted specific information about the Bay Trail and the use of solar panels in the Plan Area. They also voiced concerns about preserving the existing industry in the Plan Area and about enclosing residential areas with new commercial buildings.

- Sustainable areas should be integrated into the Plan Area
- Improvements should be measured against the baseline
- New construction should meet the highest environmental standards
- Maintaining (existing) industry and its (current) relationship to residential uses (presents a potential conflict)
- “Green-zone” the Jingtowntown community; integrate all aspects of sustainability in one small area. Subsidize with fees from the rest of the Plan Area.
- Renewable energy (sources/uses)
 - Solar for existing buildings

- Water
- Reduce energy consumption and use renewable sources
- Energy: renewable and local
- Pilot green technologies
- Air quality and water quality issues
 - Sausal Creek runs into Estuary (health/water quality of the creek is important to the health of the estuary)
 - Water consumption by industry
 - Water efficiency; landscape with native species, recycle water and capture rainwater
 - Regionally appropriate landscaping – not lawns
 - Trees, trees, trees; more vegetation!
 - More trees!
- Capacity of sewer system
- Waterfront for habitat and recreational purposes (Bay Trail)
 - Habitat restoration along estuary; integrate new development with existing parks, so that the parks are used more
 - Habitat restoration – Bay Trail
- Consider impacts on parking as density increases
- Establish a community land trust with an emphasis on the mixing of artists' ownership and rental. Model after the Art Space in Portland, Oregon

Station 6: Demographics and Economics

Meeting participants asked questions to clarify the data in the economic assessment charts. They were concerned that the data shown had omitted the artists who worked at home. They discussed how that information may be difficult to account for.

- Which bank is represented by the \$ symbol? (It is a credit union associated with Owens Brockway)
- Consider actually weighting the data by population

Station 7: Public Health

Community members thought that the data was useful, but the presentation may be too complicated and difficult to interpret. Community members asked for the public health reports that the data was drawn from.

- Cancer rate data? (Is referenced to University of California, Berkeley)

Station 8: Follow up

Meeting participants underlined the importance of having “vibrant” mixed-uses, including parks and recreational open spaces, as well as safety and security. They also

commented about the necessity of low-income housing and accessibility to the Plan Area for all.

Wrap-up

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Beacon Day School at 2101 Livingston Street, Oakland, CA 94601. Notification for the meeting will be sent out in advance.

For more information, please visit the project website:

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